

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, September 17, 1975

10:30 o'clock a.m.

HARVEY CLAY LUTTRELL,  
Chairman

Baton Rouge, Louisiana



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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . A special emergency meeting of the Board of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was held on Wednesday, September 17, 1975, at 10:30 o'clock a.m. in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Harvey Clay Luttrell, Chairman, presiding. . . .

PRESENT WERE:

HARVEY CLAY LUTTRELL, Chairman

MARC DUPUY, JR., Member

JERRY JONES, Member

DONALD WILLE, Member

J. BURTON ANGELLE, Director

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CHAIRMAN LUTTRELL: Gentlemen, the purpose of the meeting today is to amend the action taken by the Commission in the July, 1975 meeting in New Orleans to establish an alligator trapping season scheduled to begin September 20 in Cameron, Calcasieu and Vermilion Parishes. We are now open for discussion.



MR. RICHARD YANCEY: At the July meeting of the Commission, held in New Orleans, an alligator season was established to begin in Cameron, Calcasieu and Vermilion Parishes on September 20, using basically the same regulations that were used in the '72-'73 alligator seasons that worked out very nicely for all concerned.

At the meeting held in July we had representatives from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service present and they advised us at that particular meeting that there was no reason why we could not begin that season on September 20. A petition had been submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Service earlier, requesting that the alligator be completely removed from the endangered species list for those three parishes, and they had begun to run this petition in the Federal Register, calling for delisting this animal from the endangered classification. According to the timetable that they were working under at that time, they felt that September 20 would be an appropriate date to begin the season.

Now, in addition to the request from



Louisiana for delisting in those three parishes and changing the classification slightly in Southeast Louisiana, they also decided to propose changing the alligator from endangered to threatened in many of the other southeastern states. In other words, they proposed to go beyond the request from Louisiana.

It looked like this thing was going to work out very nicely. However, last week we learned that there had been some opposition to this change which proposed to go beyond the petition from Louisiana and that very likely there would be a lawsuit filed if they took this action. This was based on a letter from the National Audubon Society and also based on conversations that they had had from some of the other private conservation organizations in the country, and we learned this last week that there were some hangups in connection with this matter. We asked Allan Ensminger to go to Washington and meet with these people Monday, which he did.

In order to get around the possibility of a successful lawsuit, they decided to publish



the regulations as we had requested they be published in our earlier petition, which would delist the animal for the three Southwest Louisiana, and by doing this and not going beyond that and change the animal to threatened in the other southeastern states, then this would preclude the possibility of a successful lawsuit.

So, what this did in effect was to upset the timetable and bring about the necessity for delaying the opening date of this season from September 20 up to about September 25, plus or minus a day or two. We have a copy of a telegram that they sent us yesterday. Copies of this are available and, Pie, you might pass them around to anyone that would be interested in them.

In other words, we can't legally allow any of these animals to be taken until they are officially declassified, and this is probably going to be September 25, plus or minus a day or two. Now we won't know exactly what day we can start that season until probably Friday or maybe Monday. They told us they would let us know at that time exactly what day we can start the season. What



this basically means is we are going to have to amend the action taken at the July meeting of the Commission in three or four ways. We are going to have to delay, cancel out this September 20 opening date and delay that opening date to about September 25, plus or minus a day or two, and we are also going to have to change our application period that we had set up in the resolution of July, 1975. In that resolution we said that applications for licenses and tags had to be submitted between August 25 and September 19, 1975. Of course, we would propose that we just delete September 19, 1975, from this particular stipulation in the Commission's resolution, so that the people that have the land down there, the trappers can go ahead and apply and obtain tags any time before the opening of the season or even during the season.

There is also another change that we are going to have to put into effect here and it has to do with the sale of the meat of these animals. Under these federal regulations, the meat cannot be put in commerce. Under the Commission regulation it could have been. We are going to have to



delete that so that our regulations will track the federal requirements, and specify that no meat or parts of any animal can be put in commerce other than the skins.

Now, as of yesterday evening, we talked to Ted Joanen at Rockefeller and he said that there has been a total of 52 licenses issued, along with 1,700 tags, and he is expecting to issue between 100 and 175 licenses and probably about 4,500 or 5,000 tags. He calculates also that there are 90,000 alligators in that three-parish area outside of those that are on Rockefeller, Sabine and Lacassine Refuges. I am sure that everyone here is familiar with the other regulations under which this season was established. These trappers are operating strictly under a tag system. They are issued so many tags per unit area of marsh that they have available for hunting.

There is one question also in this resolution that has to do with a trapper possibly hunting on acreage that he doesn't have a license to hunt on, and we would propose that there be a sentence or two added to Item 4 in the July action of



the Commission that would provide that hunters are prohibited from hunting off their lands that they either own or that they lease, and that if they are found hunting on someone else's lands, then they would be subject to having their licenses revoked and their tags revoked in addition to any other penalties provided by law.

If we don't have a regulation to this effect clearly spelled out in this resolution, then this would completely disrupt the quota system under which we are handling the harvest of alligators on an evenly distributed pattern throughout that three-parish area.

MR. DUPUY: On that point, are you getting into the matter of enforcing trespass laws?

MR. YANCEY: No, this wouldn't be trespass. This would be prohibiting a hunter from hunting in a closed area that he is not authorized to hunt on. Under the provisions of these resolutions, the only lands that he is licensed to hunt on are those that he actually owns or has a right to hunt on, and that is the only place that those tags can be used, on those lands, and we didn't



have that clearly spelled out in the July resolution and we propose to put it in the Commission action today so that it will be clearly spelled out and everyone who gets a license or gets tags down there will fully understand that they can use these tags only on the lands that they are licensed to hunt on.

THE CHAIRMAN: That means lands owned or leased?

MR. YANCEY: Owned or leased.

MR. DUPUY: One question with regard to the timing. Once the final rule-making has been published in the Federal Register, is that the last step that is needed before our establishing a season? Can we, in other words, the very moment of the publishing, go ahead and proceed with the season?

MR. YANCEY: That's right.

MR. DUPUY: No further delay of any sort?

MR. YANCEY: What they did, they published these broad and comprehensive proposals for change in the classification of the alligator all across the Southeast. O. K., they got complaints about



this, written complaints, based mainly on the fact that what they proposed to do went beyond Louisiana's petition, so what they are going to do, they are going to answer all of these complaints in what they begin to publish on or about September 25. They will take care of all these complaints in what they publish at that time, and the day they begin to publish that in the Federal Register, then the season can be legally opened here in Louisiana, as we propose to do here.

MR. DUPUY: There is no time permitted for answering complaints or responding?

MR. YANCEY: These are final regulations. You see, they have already published the regulations, beginning in July, early July.

MR. DUPUY: If we set a season now on or about the 25th of September, give or take whatever day it might take to make the actual final publication, we are not going to be faced with the probability of coming back and fixing another date?

MR. YANCEY: I don't think there is any chance of that at all. They felt that if they stuck with the regulations they published on July 8,



you know, and republished these again, that they would be 100 percent sure of a successful lawsuit being filed against this whole thing, which would have completely derailed this season, but to get around that, they have come back to our original request, and that is what they are going to start publishing on that particular day, and they don't anticipate any problem with that, because it would just apply to those three parishes.

Now, later on, they plan to come back, as we understand it, with their original regulations that they began to publish in early July, but they are going to have to get some additional information to substantiate that proposed change.

Allan may have something he would like to say. He met with those people up there Monday and yesterday, and there may be others here that would want to comment.

MR. ENSMINGER: I think Richard covered it very adequately. One thing I might point out for the news media people that are here, the National Audubon Society was represented at the meeting we had in Washington and it was very



emphatically stated by their representative that they were not opposed to Louisiana's alligator season, that they had taken this position two years ago when we had our season here in Louisiana, and that their only concerns were that they wanted to make sure the regulations adequately protected poaching in areas that were still closed. Of course, this is incorporated in the regulations and we feel that the requirements that our Commission has imposed with regard to tags and following these various things into commercial activity will adequately answer the Audubon Society's concerns.

Now, the comments that were received from these other organizations, as Mr. Yancey has indicated, were substantial. They questioned the regulations in area where scientific data probably had not been sufficiently presented to justify the delisting of the alligator in those areas. We feel like this is probably our only hope, to proceed forward at this time with the season. It will give the opportunity to the landowners to test the American market. As you are aware, the skins will not be able to be exported out of the United



States at this time and it certainly is of considerable importance to the Louisiana landowners to find out what the American market will reflect in the way of prices and certainly this will be an important aspect of this short season that we have this year.

THE CHAIRMAN: O. K., do we have anyone else who would care to make a statement? Mr. Crane, I know you are quite interested.

MR. YANCEY: You might tell us a little bit about the situation there on the scene, in that area.

MR. CRANE: I am John Paul Crane. We are all ready for a season. In fact, it is late. We should have had one last year. Of course, since we couldn't have one last year, it is going to be open so late this year that I know we are going to have problems to get our quota. In fact, there is nobody going to get their quota, I don't believe, on account of the late season, but so far as the alligators, we do have them and in the interest of good marsh management, they should be taken off, not only for the alligator but for the fur and for



the ducks and things like that that the alligator feeds on. Just in the interest of good marsh management, they need to go ahead and go along with this season.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Crane.

Do we have someone else? Jerry?

MR. JONES: I will make a motion we --

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: May I?

THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, as a point of information, we all know that at our July meeting when the feds were at our New Orleans meeting and promised us by July 20 we could go ahead and set some seasons for September 20, and we were definitely told they would cut through the bureaucratic red tape and we would be able to set the season. Now they are talking about the 25th, and I read a little below, it says, "plus or minus one or two days".

What I am addressing myself to is, what is the last day that this Commission is willing to set an alligator season? Are we going to play with it every week or ten days or three weeks as



the feds change their minds what they are going to do and what they are not going to do, or are we just going to sit back and let them play with us like a yoyo? Are we going to go to October 1 or October 10 or have we made up our minds that we have got to take this into consideration in trying to administer the program properly and put our people in the proper place to be able to do the job that we have got to do in this Commission?

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Angelle, just as a person and not as a member, I definitely think we should have some type of alligator season in Louisiana this year whenever it becomes possible. Too many times our federal people have set aside a season or a regulation one year and then through various excuses have found ways to set it aside a second year and eventually lose it entirely.

I don't know what the rest of the Commission thinks and naturally my thinking is going to be influenced by what our biologists think. Mr. Yancey, do you have an answer to this?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Well, our problem is not so much a biological part of it. I know we



have to take this into consideration and it is very important, but what I am taking into consideration, what I am addressing ourselves to is that we are starting to look kind of silly to the people in the State of Louisiana, that every three weeks we are changing our minds because of other people's actions, not because of Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission actions, but because of federal actions we have to take a different position on what we are going to do.

This was a very, very pointed question asked to the feds and they said to do it and they would have given us that authority and they would have cut through the bureaucratic red tape by the 20th, and they have not delivered their promises. Isn't that right, Allan?

MR. ENSMINGER: Well, yes, but they couldn't because they were threatened with a suit and if they had, I think our alligator season would have been delayed probably a year and a half.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Well, if every time we are going to have to move because somebody is threatening a suit, then they might just as soon



shut this State down and the whole United States.

FROM THE FLOOR: They didn't do what we asked them to do, just set aside Cameron, Vermilion and Calcasieu. They included the whole Gulf Coast.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: That is right.

FROM THE FLOOR: That is what brought on the problem, am I right?

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: And probably purposely so.

THE CHAIRMAN: Dick?

MR. YANCEY: Well, what we would suggest that you do, that you authorize the Director and the staff to open this season the minute we find out from the Fish and Wildlife Service when it can be opened. I tell you, as much trouble as we have had with this thing, if we have to open it Christmas Day, I would say open it Christmas and let them take shovels and dig those alligators! I think we are all sick and tired of the way this whole thing has been handled.

MR. DUPUY: I am sure the native ingenuity of the trappers will find a way!

THE CHAIRMAN: They will find a way, that



is what I am saying.

MR. YANCEY: Our whole alligator management program has been disrupted by the placement of that animal under federal control, and the only chance we have got to get it back under state control is to dance to the tune that they are playing at this time, and that is what we are trying to do and we are trying to do the best we can with it.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Dick, you made my point very, very clear. This is what I was trying to get someone to say. You know, when do we not have one or when we do we start having one? If they tell us we can have one, if it is on December 24, well, by God, we will make a press announcement and we will have one then.

MR. YANCEY: That's when we will have it.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: O. K.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is exactly my point of view, that we have an alligator season this year, period.

MR. YANCEY: This whole thing is just a minor battle in a big issue, and it has to do with the federal control and management of certain types



of wildlife and state control of certain types of wildlife. Traditionally in this country the state has exercised jurisdiction and control over the management of resident wildlife and the federal government over the control of migratory wildlife, but now they have firmly moved into the area of beginning to manage resident wildlife and they have an Act of Congress to back them up, but this is where our big problem lies.

We are not the only state that is having trouble with this intervention and preemption of state control by the Fish and Wildlife Service. We have surveyed all the other states in the country and there are 15 other states now that are having major problems with this Endangered Species Act. In the north of Minnesota it has to do with the management of the timber wolf, which is a resident game animal. In Montana and those states they have got trouble with the management of grizzly bears. Over in the Northwest, with the Columbia and blacktail deer that is now causing crop damage. Down in Arizona, at great expense they completely renovated several streams and



re-introduced this native Apache trout that they have, and just as they had all of these years of work done, this fish suddenly showed up as an endangered species and they had to close these streams to fishing just as they were opening the streams.

So, we are not the only ones who have problems in this thing, but since we do have them, we are just doing the best we can with what we have to do with.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: It's not that they haven't told us the whole truth or have skirted the issue, they have just damned lied to us.

MR. YANCEY: We have got the tapes from the July meeting of the Commission that said we could open this season on September 20 and now we have been informed that we can't and we have just got to do the best we can with what we have, which looks like around the 25th of September.

MR. JONES: You follow their reasoning with the alligator and they can put the deer on the endangered species list tomorrow, and their reasoning is that because the 'gator from Louisiana



looks like a 'gator from Illinois, that we are going to still maintain some control in Louisiana, so you don't have any deer on Fifth Avenue in New York and if you had one, he would look like a deer in Louisiana, and if the states don't wake up, we are going to wind up with all these animals, domestic animals, on that list, and you can see what chaos you have got when you have somebody in Washington regulating them that doesn't know anything about them, won't put any money into a program and you have got chaos. That is what we have got, pure chaos, and it is going to stay that way.

THE CHAIRMAN: I agree with Jerry completely.

MR. JONES: And you go try to reason with them and they don't reason, and when they do get backed into a corner, they lie to you, l-i-e, that's what they did, they lied. The man sat there and looked at us and said it on tape and he lied.

MR. YANCEY: Well, at the time this Endangered Species Bill was pending in Congress, we met with the principal author of the bill to



try to get some amendments made to the bill that would have it enacted in a manner that we could live with, and basically we wanted a requirement stipulated in the bill that would specify that they could not name a resident form of wildlife to the endangered species list without obtaining the concurrence of the state.

Well, we failed in that effort and the Secretary of the Interior in that bill has the authority to name any form of wildlife that he wants to the endangered species list. He has to consult with the state but that is all. He can consult and then he can go ahead and do what he wants to do, and we are real fearful that this is ultimately going to place a number of our resident species of wildlife on this endangered species list, and that is going to mean federal control.

If this were 1923 instead of 1973, you would have the white-tailed deer and the Eastern wild turkey being put on the list. Just recently we got a letter proposing that the Southern black bear be put on the list. We objected to this. You can get something on the list without a great



amount of justification, but when you try to get something off the list, as we have found, it takes about three years to do this and you have got to submit a tremendous amount of biological information to justify removal.

THE CHAIRMAN: That is a point I wanted to make. I have studied and read back and was involved in this black bear, restocking the State of Louisiana and so forth, and my opinion is simply this, that federal control has never, or federal management, has never resulted in an increase in wildlife in any state I know of, and frankly, if they want to preserve the endangered species, they had better formulate policies and rules and regulations that allow the people in the state to handle it, handle it based on what they know to be good in their state, because if they don't do that, there won't be any preservation of the endangered species, whether it is the black bear or the wolf or the alligator or whatever; there will be complete elimination of those species.

Now I can't for the life of me see how they figure on controlling or enforcing these



regulations with four federal officers in the whole State of Louisiana. Now we are about a hundred enforcement officers short here and we have several hundred, and we have trouble trying to control and enforce these regulations.

Federal control and management will be, in my opinion, a complete elimination of your endangered species.

MR. YANCEY: Well, in the United States you have got about 6,000 state enforcement officers and you have got about 250 federal people. They can't do the job and they acknowledge this, but when you really get down to reading that Endangered Species Law, you have trouble trying to determine what are they really getting at; are they trying to really protect the endangered species or are they trying to preempt state authority in the management of resident wildlife? I have difficulty in my interpretation of that Act.

THE CHAIRMAN: I have a conclusion on that, Dick, and I may be entirely wrong, but I think those boys want a big budget and want to hire a large staff and they get out and throw up a large



smokescreen and expect the people of the state to go ahead and perform the magic deed of preserving and increasing things that they declare as endangered when they are not endangered at all. If we allow those people, or they succeed in forcing their opinions upon us, these things will not only be endangered, they will be extinct, and there is nothing we can do about it.

MR. YANCEY: Well, it is our opinion that you can't manage resident wildlife from Washington. We can't manage resident wildlife from Baton Rouge or New Orleans; it is managed on the local scene by people like Mr. Crane and others. If they are not going to get out and help protect that resident wildlife, as we saw in Tensas Parish and other places with the deer; if you don't have local help, you can adopt all the regulations you want to but you are not going to maintain a satisfactory population of wildlife. It takes grass roots efforts to maintain good populations of resident wildlife and without it, we are all in trouble.

THE CHAIRMAN: I am going to ask for a motion but, first, let me see if there is someone



else who has a little input.

FROM THE FLOOR: Mr. Chairman, could I make a statement about the Audubon Society?

THE CHAIRMAN: We will be glad to have you do so, sir.

FROM THE FLOOR: The Audubon Society without a doubt was created by a bunch of fine people, good people and so on, but unfortunately they don't know too much about game management, in my opinion. As an example, in Vermilion Parish, they are on a sizable refuge and have been for many years, and on that refuge it is only a little ways to Marsh Island and State Wildlife, and it is a matter of public record for anyone to go look at the records that our Wild Life and Fisheries has and compare the alligator population on Audubon Society, on State Wildlife, on Marsh Island and on my own property, and I will assure you that we have a whole lot more population than they have, so I don't see how they can be telling us how to manage our little business. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir. Jerry.

MR. JONES: I make a motion that we



authorize the Director to set the date for the taking of alligators to be the first permissible date authorized by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and that we further amend the July regulations in accordance with the recommendations of Mr. Yancey.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Would that have to be also with another resolution as far as notifying the public because of the Administrative Procedures Act?

MR. JONES: We also declare an emergency in order to do that.

MR. DUPUY: I will second that, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Jones and seconded by Mr. Dupuy that we accept the recommendations of Mr. Yancey and amend the July regulations. Any discussion?

Those in favor, say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

THE CHAIRMAN: Opposed, no.

(No response)

So ordered.



(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has received a telegram from the Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service stating that the rules governing the 1973 Endangered Species Act are going to be delayed appearing in the Federal Register beyond September 20, and

WHEREAS, the resolution adopted by the Commission at its July 22, 1975 public meeting stated the opening of the alligator season in Cameron and a portion of Calcasieu and Vermilion Parishes would open on September 20, and

WHEREAS, minor changes now become necessary due to this delay,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby take emergency action to amend the action



taken on July 22, 1975 regarding the establishment of an alligator season in Cameron and a portion of Calcasieu and Vermilion Parishes, Louisiana in accordance with regulations governing the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Director of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission is hereby authorized to announce the opening date of the 1975 alligator season as soon as legally possible according to federal law and that this season will be conducted with the following regulations; no exceptions of these procedures will be permitted, and anyone taking alligators contrary to these regulations will be charged in accordance with the Louisiana Revised Statutes and/or Endangered Species Act of 1973:

1. Open Area - Coastal marshes including converted marshland. Alligators may be taken in Cameron Parish; in



Vermilion Parish south of State Highway 14; in Calcasieu Parish south of Interstate Highway 10 and State Highway 108 to the junction with State Highway 27, thence south and west of a line between Highway 27 and Calcasieu Locks, then south of Intracoastal Canal to the Cameron Parish Line. An estimated 95,000 alligators are present in this area outside the refuges. No more than eight percent of this population may be taken during the season.

2. Harvest Season - The open season shall run from the date announced by the Director of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and continue through Sunday, October 19, 1975. No alligators under four feet in length may be taken.

3. Harvest Method - Alligators may be taken only during the daylight



hours, between one-half hour before official sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Special instructions will be issued to the holders of alligator hunter licenses shortly before the opening of the season, describing detailed methods regarding the skinning of alligators. Skins processed contrary to the specific requirements of the Commission will be considered illegal. Pole hunting is prohibited to protect nesting female populations.

4. Licenses - An alligator hunter must have a valid commercial alligator hunter license to take, transport or sell alligators or their skins. The fee for the license is \$25.00 per year and is non-transferable. In order to obtain the license, he must have resided in Louisiana for one year preceding the season. He must complete application forms



provided by the Commission and furnish proof that he owns the land or has an agreement with the landowner to hunt alligators on the specified property. Information as to the location and acreage of the property must be provided. Applications must be submitted after August 25, 1975. The alligator hunter license will be issued only after the hunter has satisfactorily complied with the above requirements. An exact copy of the approved application form must be carried while in the act of hunting alligators. Hunters are prohibited to hunt or take alligators on land other than that covered by their license. Anyone apprehended in violation of this provision will have their license and tags rescinded and charges filed for violation of this provision. A fur buyer license



or fur dealer license is required for purchasing and handling raw alligator skins in Louisiana. Persons or firms entering alligator skins in interstate commerce in the course of a commercial activity must be licensed in accordance with State and Federal Regulations.

5. Tagging - In addition to a valid commercial alligator hunting license, the hunter must also obtain from the Commission, and have in his possession while hunting, official tags which must be firmly attached to each alligator skin immediately upon taking. Numbered tags and tagging pliers will be issued to license holders for a sum of \$5.00. The tags must be attached approximately six inches from the tip of the tail end of the skin. The tag must remain attached to the skin



until finally processed by the fabricator. It shall be illegal to possess alligator skins in Louisiana without valid official tags attached. Official alligator tags will be issued only to alligator hunters and only to those who have authorized applications. The number of tags will be issued on the basis of the area and quality of the habitat, and the rate per acre will be fixed based on extensive population estimates. Tags will be issued for alligator habitat only, based on final decision of the technician. No more than this fixed number of tags will be issued. Each official tag will bear a characteristic number and a duplicate tab, and the tag numbers issued to each hunter will be recorded. Unused tags must be returned to the Commission. Lost or stolen tags will not be replaced



but must be reported. Tags can be used only on the lands applied for and approved on the application.

6. Alligator Farmers and Breeders - Licensed alligator farmers or breeders will be issued permits to kill and skin their alligators but must follow the same rules and regulations which apply to wild alligators. No alligators on breeding farms may be killed without such a permit. Tagging validation is required on skins taken. Alligator farmers and breeders must comply with Federal Regulations governing captive raised alligators.
7. Harvest Rates - Only eight percent of overall population in open season area may be taken. Tags will be issued on the following basis: Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes - Brackish Marsh, one per 400 acres; Intermediate March - one per 100 acres;



Fresh - one per 150 acres; Pump-off Districts -- regardless of marsh type - one per 500 acres. Vermilion Parish - Intermediate Marsh, one per 100 acres; Fresh, one per 500 acres; Brackish Marsh, one per 150 acres; Pump-off District, one per 500 acres.

8. Validation of Alligator Skins - All alligator skins taken during the experimental alligator season shall be checked and a second tag fixed by personnel of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission at the headquarters of the Rockefeller Refuge on October 20, 21, 22, 1975. Any skins not processed by this validation system on one of these dates shall be considered to be illegal. The holders of alligator hunting licenses must bring their skins to Rockefeller for validation on one of these three dates between



8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Special dressing instructions will also be verified, and any skins not prepared according to instructions issued in advance of season will be considered illegal. Unused tags will be returned at this time. Validation tags must remain attached to the skin until finally processed by the fabricator.

9. Shipment -- All raw alligator skins shipped out-of-state must bear official shipping tags provided by the Commission. Forms provided must be filled out completely and returned to the Commission within 15 days following the close of each season. No raw alligator skins may be shipped from the state after 60 days following the close of the season without first obtaining a permit from the Commission. Raw alligator skins transported in the course of a commercial activity,



shipped or transported within the state must be labeled with tags issued by the Commission describing the number of skins, the consignor, shipping point, consignee, and destination. All parts of alligators, other than the raw skins, transported within the state for personal use must be clearly labeled with the license number of the alligator hunter and the number of the official tag which was attached to the alligator skins.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the administrative responsibility for conducting this season shall rest with J. Burton Angelle, Director of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have some other business.

MR. DUPUY: Gentlemen, the regulations which we adopted for the Wildlife Management Areas with regard to waterfowl regulation provide a



number of varied situations. Some of the waterfowl hunting regulations on some of the Game Management Areas are the same as outside in the state, whatever it is throughout the state. Some of them are restricted to hunting from morning till noon and no afternoon hunting. Some are closed under certain circumstances and certain times.

The Spring Bayou Wildlife Management Area, we have apparently adopted a regulation providing for only morning hunting, and I notice that the nearby areas, management areas that are closest to Spring Bayou, such as Grassy Lake, which is also in Avoyelles Parish, has a hunting regulation the same as the outside state, and Red River Management Area and Thistlewaite and Three Rivers and Saline. On all of these the regulations for waterfowl hunting are the same as in the outside state.

I would like to modify our regulations with regard to Spring Bayou so as to make it the same as outside. We have had quite a number of requests from people who have been most upset.

DIRECTOR ANGELLE: I think it is a mistake, an error in putting it in there, and it is



just a matter of correcting it.

MR. DUPUY: I don't believe it was intended that we have an afternoon closed season in Spring Bayou.

THE CHAIRMAN: Joe, will you come up, please? I have a question for Joe.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year it read, "Same as outside season except hunting prohibited on refuge area," and so this year it should be the same on there, just close the refuge area. We did not include the refuge area this year in Spring Bayou but put in that 12 noon, so what he is suggesting is to have it read as we had it read last year.

THE CHAIRMAN: Now, Joe, in the Saline area, the Greentree closes at 12. Now you would not change that?

MR. HERRING: No, no. The rest of Saline would be all day, but just the Greentree Reservoir would be noon hunting.

THE CHAIRMAN: And what you are proposing now for the Spring Bayou area is that it would be all day in the Game Management Area?



DIRECTOR ANGELLE: Except the refuge.

MR. HERRING: Except by Loggy Bayou there; it is a small area there.

MR. WILLE: No, wait a minute, Joe. Bodcau.

MR. HERRING: We have Bodcau twelve noon, too.

MR. WILLE: Why?

MR. HERRING: Because in that area there, we have a lot of people to hunt in there.

MR. WILLE: You are prejudiced against those north people, again, Joe.

MR. HERRING: No, actually what you are doing in there is give the ducks a longer time to settle in there, and actually produce --

MR. WILLE: I would like to make a motion that we include Bodcau in with Spring Bayou.

MR. HERRING: Actually you produce better hunting in there by doing that.

MR. DUPUY: The problem is hunter opportunity, and there are some people who can only hunt in the afternoon.

MR. YANCEY: What you are going to do,



you are going to hurt your season-long opportunity because if you shoot these ducks right on to dark, you are going to get two or three days of hunting and then that's all. If you cut it off at noon, you will have hunting all through the season, but those ducks are real sensitive to hunting pressure and if you shut off at noon, you will have a lot more hunting opportunity provided all through the season than you will if you let them shoot right on till dark. You see, sunset is the legal hour they can shoot to, and most courts, you know, let them go on to 15 minutes after sunset, and you shoot these ducks at dark and you are really hurting your hunter success for the next day and the days after that you allow this.

On these public hunting areas particularly. Now on a club or something like that where they hunt every other day or every third day, then maybe it doesn't have that impact, but hunting pressure strictly controls the distribution of ducks and hunter success on these areas, and on these public hunting areas where you get a lot of participation, you let them shoot to dark, you are going to really



hurt your hunter success.

MR. WILLE: All right, Dick, but in other words, it won't affect the Spring Bayou area but it will affect the Bodcau, is that what you are trying to say?

MR. YANCEY: It will affect any of them.

MR. DUPUY: Well, the only problem is that you really can't use that argument very convincingly to people who can't hunt in the morning, and you are eliminating the people who are able to hunt only in the afternoon, and our ducks in Spring Bayou as well as other places are mostly those that are transient who do not stay very long except in our rest area where there would be no hunting at all.

MR. YANCEY: Well, the surveys that we have made in the past on that indicate that about 85 percent of the ducks are taken during the morning hours and about 15 percent in the evening hours. If you will allow that 15 percent to hunt in the evening, you are going to hurt, and really hurt, that 85 percent that are hunting in the morning.



THE CHAIRMAN: I have been wanting to throw this out for a long time. I am Marc's neighbor there and I know the problem. I know that they are not allowed to have a duck blind anywhere except in the open water. We are talking about hunter opportunity. I think that some of your problems in that area in enforcement might be decreased if people were allowed to put blinds up in other areas, and I wish that, Joe, for the future, not now, you would make a study of that and maybe increase it in areas, you know, places that could be hunted on Spring Bayou. Let's study that because I know there is a lot of that.

There is quite a trend in changing this hunting regulation to half a day. Mr. Haig told us last night that they are going to adopt a half a day on their entire holdings, for morning, and they are going to require that all hunters be out, period, outside the gates by two o'clock, and hunting will stop at twelve. You have a valid point. It might be good on Catahoula, too.

MR. DUPUY: Mr. Chairman, in order to bring the matter to a head, I would like to move



that we amend the regulations so as to permit hunting of waterfowl on the Spring Bayou Wildlife Management Area the same as the outside season.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the motion. Do I have a second? (No response) I don't have a second. The motion dies for lack of a second.

MR. JONES: The problem there is, I mean we have gone back and said we weren't going to change the regulations. That is what we are doing. If we change that, we are going to have somebody from Tensas to change a little deer regulation.

MR. WILLE: I have already had that, a request to change Bodcau --

MR. JONES: And we pulled that on Don Wille already about Loggy Bayou; we said we were not going to change.

MR. DUPUY: Jerry, we are not intending to change regulations or policy position. We are correcting an error that was made.

MR. JONES: But is it an error on Bodcau?

MR. DUPUY: Oh, I don't know about Bodcau but on Spring Bayou, my resolution restricts it to Spring Bayou.



MR. JONES: Is that an error in the regulations?

MR. YANCEY: About Spring Bayou?

MR. JONES: Yes.

MR. YANCEY: As I recall, I don't personally recall on that, but on Bodcau it wasn't an error. We have had noon closures on Bodcau for quite a while.

MR. JONES: You know, we are going to be allowed to kill ten ducks, and if people are going to go out and shoot all day, man, they are going to run every duck out of Louisiana.

MR. YANCEY: Well, you know, we have heard these arguments --

MR. JONES: We ought to be stopping at noon all over the state.

MR. YANCEY: We have heard these arguments over the years in Louisiana about shutting off duck hunting at noon and you have got, as Marc said, a lot of people that can't, apparently don't hunt in the morning; they hunt in the afternoon.

MR. WILLE: Well, I have it in North



Louisiana, too.

MR. YANCEY: They consistently objected to a statewide noon closure but on these Game Management Areas where we have this tremendous influx of people until dark --

MR. JONES: Let me answer that about the evening hunting, Dick. That's a fallacy about people saying they can't hunt in the morning. The guy that says he can't hunt in the morning because he is working, well, he gets off work at four o'clock, about four or five o'clock. How much hunting can he do legally between the time he gets off work, puts on his hunting gear, gets out to where the ducks are, unless he has got them in his backyard?

MR. DUPUY: Jerry, let him worry about that problem about logistics.

MR. JONES: Well, that's a fallacy about that because the only time you get any evening hunting is right there around dark.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have a large number of areas around that do have evening hunting.

MR. DUPUY: You have four areas right



here --

MR. JONES: But that guy that can go hunt in the evening can go hunt in the morning. He can arrange it, he can take --

MR. DUPUY: But you have four areas right here within the same immediate vicinity of Spring Bayou that permit hunting all day long.

MR. WILLE: Around Bodcau, too.

MR. DUPUY: And I think it is an error as far as Spring Bayou is concerned. I think they made a mistake and we need to correct it. It is very simple.

MR. WILLE: All right, then I say if it is good for them, it is good for us.

MR. JONES: What else do we have, Mr. Chairman? Do you have anything?

I move we adjourn.

THE CHAIRMAN: If there is no other discussion, O. K., it has been moved that the meeting adjourn. So ordered.

. . . Whereupon, the meeting  
was adjourned. . . .

